

On page 1, please amend the section heading "TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION" to read as follows:

#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

On page 1, please amend the section heading "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" to read as follows:

2. Prior Art

On page 4, please amend the section heading "DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION" to read as follows:

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 5, please amend the section heading "EMOBIMENTS OF THE INVENTION" to read as follows:

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

#### IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel the previous versions of claims 5-8 and insert the amended versions of claims 5-8 as follows. (Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121, marked-up versions of these claims are attached.)

5. (Amended) The Al-coated steel sheet for a fuel tank defined in Claim 3, wherein the alkali-soluble resin is urethane.

6. (Amended) The Al-coated steel sheet for a fuel tank defined in Claim 1, wherein the resin film is mixed with 1-25mass% a powdery synthetic resin.

7. (Amended) The Al-coated steel sheet for a fuel tank defined in Claim 1, wherein the resin film has a thickness of 0.2-5.0 $\mu\text{m}$ .

8. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a fuel tank comprising the steps of:

preparing an Al-coated steel sheet on which an alkali-soluble resin film is directly formed,

press-working said Al-coated steel sheet to prepare upper and lower halves of a fuel tank,

washing said upper and lower halves with an alkali liquid to dissolve off said resin film,

welding said upper half to said lower half, and

applying a paint to an external surface of said upper and lower halves.

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Please insert new claims 9 and 10 as follows:

9. The Al-coated steel sheet for a fuel tank defined in Claim 3, wherein the alkali-soluble resin is acrylic resin.

10. The Al-coated steel sheet for a fuel tank defined in Claim 1, wherein the resin film is mixed with 1-30mass% powdery silica.